

Reference: 02025179

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

6 August 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about suppliers not paid within 30 days from 1 April 2019 to present day.

We received this request on 23 June 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act"). We wrote to you on 17 July to say we needed more time to consider the public interest in disclosing or withholding any information held – we have now concluded our consideration.

Your request and our response

We request under FOIA that you provide, (preferably in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent machine-readable format) the following information in respect of suppliers which were not paid in within 30 days for the period starting 1 April 2019 to the date of this request:

1. *Supplier Name*
2. *Invoice Date*
3. *Gross Invoice Value*
4. *Payment Date*
5. *Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any)*

We do not hold searchable full data as far back as 2019 due to records being held in a number of different or old systems.

We are able to provide some of the data you have requested from 1 April 2022 – please see the attached spreadsheet.

The spreadsheet does not include information on contracts relating to ICT, cyber security or Ofcom's Spectrum functions as we consider this information is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(a) of the FOI Act for reasons related to the prevention or detection of crime. In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information. In the annex I have set out the exemption in full, as well as the factors Ofcom considered when deciding where the public interest lay.

In addition, where the supplier is an individual, this is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act. Section 40(2) of the FOI Act provides that personal information about persons other than the requester is exempt where, among other things, its disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act

2018. This includes the principle that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40 is an absolute exemption under the Act and does not require a public interest test.

I can confirm we have not paid any late payment charges from 1 April 2019 to the date of your request. We have paid all invoices within 30 days in around 98% of cases over the last 3 years. You may find information about our approach to potential late payment charges via the following link [here](#) under the prompt payment performance section.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further queries, then please send them to information.requests@ofcom.org.uk – quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information Requests

Annex

Section 31 (1) of the FOI Act provides that: Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice – (a) the prevention or detection of crime;	
Factors for disclosure	Factors for withholding
• Transparency and public confidence in regulated activities. • Enabling the public to gain a better understanding of which services Ofcom procures and generally also enable them to understand how Ofcom performs its functions.	• Disclosure of information about suppliers and services related to Ofcom's ICT systems and Spectrum functions may aid malicious parties in determining any vulnerabilities in Ofcom's systems to tailor attacks accordingly. Release of this information will prejudice the prevention of crime by facilitating the possibility of a criminal offence being carried out. Hacking into an ICT system is a criminal offence. • The consequences of a successful attack include loss of confidentiality as the hackers could potentially access information we hold from third parties such as stakeholders, government, individuals etc.
Reasons why public interest favours withholding information	
• We consider that, on balance, the public interest in withholding disclosure of the requested information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. • Disclosure of such information about services and suppliers related to Ofcom's ICT systems and Spectrum functions may assist malicious parties in developing strategies to attack the systems. The consequences of a successful attack are significant and include the loss of confidential and commercially sensitive information. This would impair trust and confidence in Ofcom as an effective regulator and impair our ability to carry out our functions.	

- In applying this exemption, we have also taken account of the real and significant risk of prejudice occurring from the requested information being put together with other information already in the public domain.

Request an internal review

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress. Please email the Information Requests team (information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) to request an internal review.

Taking it further

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).